



Newsletter



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End of Autumn Term 2020 - the new norm
18/12/20



IMPORTANT

PLANS FOR REOPENING IN JANUARY

There is a lot of concern about the rising number of covid cases in Neath Port Talbot so the local authority have told schools how to plan for the reopen in January.

Our school will be open to pupils on 6th January 2021, if there is a change in this date we will inform you on the 4th January. However, the school will still be open to vulnerable learners and children of critical workers on January 6th and we emphasize that it is important for them to attend.

Staff will be working on January 4th and 5th. We will need to find out potential numbers of staff that may be in isolation and number of families / pupils. We will also be looking at the infection rate at that time. We will choose the best option that will be right for our families at Eastern. The decision will be made for US and not based on other schools.

The choices will be discussed and will need approval from the local authority:

- reopen as we are now
- reducing the number of pupils coming in at certain times
- online learning for all pupils except vulnerable learners and pupils of key workers.

We sincerely hope that we can reopen for all the children on January 6th!

INSET day is planned for **January 22nd**. No school for pupils. Staff professional development day.

Change of telephone number

If you change your telephone number over the Christmas holiday period please text it through to the school phone (number is at the top). We will need it for track and trace purposes in case there is a positive case.

Last day

Today the school closes its doors to all pupils for the Autumn Term. Teachers have provided child care and online learning for all pupils this week. As from 3:30pm teachers will not be checking emails so please do not expect a response from this time onwards. Teachers will pick their emails back up on January 4th and we will start making calls to families from this day onwards. All staff need a good two weeks break from work now, they have worked extremely hard keeping the children's learning going and ensuring school is as covid safe as possible. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated team who have put the children first at all times and we want them now to focus on their own family time without the worry of being in contact with so many different families in school. Staff have assessed pupils learning and lots of them have caught up from lost learning between March and September but we still have lots more to do and we cannot allow progress to dwindle. We will continue to focus on getting their reading, writing and maths back to where it should be and beyond!

As always, staff have done an amazing job and I am sure you will join me, Louise Jefford and the governing body, in saying a huge thank you to our caretaker, admin officers, kitchen staff, cleaners, teaching assistants and teachers.

On behalf of the staff, thank you to all our parents, carers, grandparents and families for doing a wonderful job with your children and helping them with their online learning. We feel so privileged that we can spend good quality time with them and share their laughs and happiness. Thank you!

What if I need help in the Christmas holidays?

The school mobile will on until December 22nd 5pm. After this, text messages will be checked occasionally for any changes of telephone numbers.

The headteacher email, JeffordL1@hwbcymru.net, will be turned off on December 22nd 5pm and will be picked back up on mid day January 1st.

The local authority are dealing with all contact cases of Covid between these times when school is unavailable. This is why you will need to text us any new mobile number.

Public Health Wales and TTP are working throughout the Christmas period.

Merry Christmas everyone! Have a good one but please stay safe and make the right choices to keep your family safe. Covid is spreading very quickly! Please follow the lockdown rules from the 28th. In doing this, we help prevent the spread. Stay safe all. See you in January.

Domestic Abuse

Not a nice topic to discuss but it is one not to ignore. You may have seen a lot of media coverage on the increase of domestic abuse incidents reported. Our local authority is dealing with a large number of cases, many of them related to the impact of lockdown on relationships. We have been sent the following links to share with as many people as we can. Don't be a bystander and watch it happen. Help the victim and provide them the professional support they need. The victim needs to know where to get the help.

This is the link to the website

<https://gov.wales/live-fear-free>

This link is the secret hand signal for a victim.

https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/uk-news/secret-hand-signal-allows-domestic-18387107?utm_source=sharebar&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sharebar

This link is how we can help victims.

<https://gov.wales/dont-be-bystander>



